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CapX2020 utilities receive Facility Permit for South Dakota transmission line project

Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kilovolt transmission line

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – February 18, 2014 – The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission today granted a facility permit for the CapX2020 Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kilovolt transmission line project. The approximately 70-mile line will run between a new Otter Tail Power Company substation about three miles west of Big Stone City and Xcel Energy’s Brookings County substation 12 miles east of Brookings.

The Facility Permit covers the southern 40-mile portion of the project from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County substation. The commission issued a facility permit in January 2007 for the northern segment of the planned line from just west of Big Stone City to just north of Gary.

“We want to thank landowners, local and state officials, and other stakeholders for their willingness to be involved in the public process and to provide valuable feedback during the past two years,” said Dan Kline, CapX2020 co-executive director and director of Strategic Transmission Initiatives at Xcel Energy.

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects, as approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator in December 2011. The multi-value projects will help expand and enhance the region’s transmission system, reduce congestion, provide access to affordable energy sources, as well as meet public policy requirements.

“Producing and delivering electricity as reliably, affordably, and environmentally responsibly as possible is at the core of our work—and this project supports those objectives,” said Tim Rogelstad, Otter Tail Power Company vice president of Asset Management. “Many thanks to all project stakeholders for working together to address regional transmission needs.”

Northern States Power Company Principal Manager Jim Wilcox added, “The Big Stone South-Brookings County project will expand electric infrastructure and utilize wind resources from South Dakota to support renewable energy development, as well as support the local economy and job growth.”

Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are joint owners on the estimated \$225 million project. Construction is expected to start on the project in late 2015. The targeted in-service date for the line is 2017. Visit www.capx2020.com to review the facility permit application, project maps, and additional information.